

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-16 were pending in this application. Claims 7-17 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 3 and 6 have been amended hereby. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sadaie. To the extent this rejection might still be applied to claims presently pending in this application, it is respectfully traversed.

The problem solved by the present invention is localizing sound images in the head of the listener generated by a monophonic signal. This problem occurs in the situation that the listener is located between left side surround source and right sound surround source and distances between the listener and these sources are the same.

In Sadaie, these distances are not the same. Therefore, Sadaie does not recognize the problem solved by the present invention. Sadaie discloses a system where distances between the listener and sound sources are not the same. Sadaie's purpose is to reduce phase differences at the listener who is located asymmetric to the speakers.

The present invention is characterized by generating phase differences of 140 degrees to 160 degrees between the left and the right signals where the listener who is located between the left side surround source and the right side surround source and distances between the listener and these sources are the same. On the contrary, Sadaie does not disclose a system where the

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listener is located symmetric to the right and the left sources, but asymmetric to the right and the left sources. Consequently, the Sadaie reference does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention and, as such, cannot anticipate the claims under §102(b).

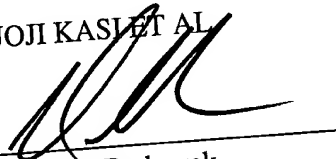
In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Date: March 17, 2006

Attachments: None

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Customer No. 00909